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NEA grants go to MAC and five arts organizations

Five Montana arts organizations recently received grants from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Recipients are: Montana State University in Bozeman, which received \$30,000 for **Montana Shakespeare in the Parks'** summer tour; Main-street Uptown Butte, \$25,000 for the **Montana Folk Festival; Art Mobile of Montana** in Dillon, \$15,000 for its traveling exhibition and visual arts education program; **MCT, Inc. (aka Missoula Children's Theatre)**, \$30,000 for its national performing arts residency tour to underserved communities and U.S. military bases; and **Missoula Writing Collaborative**, \$30,000 to support Our Words, creative writing residencies for students on the Flathead Reservation led by professional writers, playwrights, and classroom teachers.

The **Montana Arts Council** also received \$763,600 through a state partnership agreement for programs that benefit state residents.



Barry Conger

MORE CONGRATS TO ...



Loren Entz with Dana Joseph of *Cowboys and Indians* magazine

Loren Entz of Billings who received the Will Rogers Cowboy Award for Artist of the Year from the Academy of Western Artists. Entz was presented the award before a full house in March at the 19th annual Academy of Western Artists Will Rogers Awards, held in Irving, TX. Cowboy by day and artist by night, Entz realized it was possible to make a living as an artist and took a leap of faith to start working as a full-time artist. The artist, a member of the Cowboy Artists of America, paints directly from nature, which allows his work's spontaneity. His paintings show human emotions that unite the many cultures that make up the past and present worlds of the American West. Check out his work at www.lorenentz.com.

The **Archie Bray Foundation** in Helena, which met a challenge grant of \$750,000. At the end of 2013 the Windgate Charitable Foundation of Arkansas challenged the Bray with a \$750,000 matching grant, which was met with contributions and pledges in December 2014. The most recent grant supports an ongoing endeavor to address the future needs of artists and quality of the Bray experience.

The **Hockaday Museum of Art** in Kalispell, which received a generous grant from the Plum Creek Foundation as part of a significant conservation upgrade project for the museum. Funds will be used to install solar-light shades throughout the museum to provide proper protection from UV degradation. This project is another step forward in the museum's long-term plan to achieve national accreditation.

The **Montana Museum of Art and Culture**, which was an Editor's Choice pick on TripAdvisor's travel blog, Trip Pod, as one of the best museums in the U.S. It was the only museum or cultural entity in Montana to make the list, and keeps company with such illustrious institutions at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

The **Lewis and Clark Library** in Helena which received a Big Read grant for \$16,200 to offer a community-wide reading program around the novel *True Grit* by Charles Portis. The library was among 75 nonprofit organizations that received grants totaling more than \$1 million to host Big Read projects between September 2015 and June 2016. Visit neabigread.org for details.

TRANSITIONS

Welcome **Brandon Reintjes**, who joins the staff of the Missoula Art Museum as Senior Exhibition Curator June 22. And so long and best wishes to **Stephen Glueckert**, who retires June 30 after 24 distinguished years at the museum. Reintjes was born in Bozeman, and grew up in northern Michigan on the coast of Lake Superior. He received his undergraduate degree in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his master's in curatorial and critical studies from the University of Louisville. He has concentrated most aspects of his life on creating art and celebrating art made by others. He was previously curator of art at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at The University of Montana, Missoula (2009-2015); worked in the Office of the Director at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, KY (2007-2008); helped reinstall the collection and galleries for the renovated Akron Art Museum in Akron, OH (2006-2007); and worked as collections manager and curator at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena (2001-2006). Reintjes maintains an active studio practice in addition to being the father of twins.

So long and best wishes to **Elizabeth Moss**, who has served as executive director of the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell for the last five years. And welcome to **Barry Conger**, the museum's current director of development, who assumed the role of executive director May 29. Moss is returning to her home in Stuarts Draft, VA, where she plans to establish a business as an independent artist, art consultant and curator. Under her leadership, major strides were made in the preservation and conservation of the museum's permanent collection, valued at nearly \$2 million, including a complete overhaul of the collection storage facility and an ongoing



Brandon Reintjes

lighting and monitoring upgrade. "It was truly a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful community and to be instrumental in implementing a strategy to bring the museum to the next level," she said. Conger plans to continue to build on the history of the institution while also enhancing the museum's range and reach in the community both regionally and nationally. "I believe a modern museum can deliver experiential opportunities for a broad range of people," said Conger. He hopes to entice more visitors to return, and "have even more people walk away from their experience at the Hockaday thinking 'Wow! That was even better than we expected!'"

Welcome and best wishes to clarinetist **Christopher Mothersole** from Austin, TX, who joins the Chinook Winds Quintet. He replaces Useon Choi, who returned to South Korea. Thirty applicants responded to the national search for the Great Falls Symphony Principal Clarinet position. Mothersole completed his undergraduate studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and his postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music in London. Some of his former teachers include Richard Hosford of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Craig Nordstrom of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and soloist Michael Collins. He'll be moving to Great Falls in early July to begin working with the Chinook Winds.



Christopher Mothersole

So long and best wishes to Rocky Mountain College theater director **Gerry Roe**, who retired this spring after directing more than 300 plays. Roe joined the faculty at the Billings college in 1987, and told the Billings Gazette he used to produce plays on a budget of \$50 a year. One of the highlights of his long career was winning the Rocky Mountain Theater Association's first place award for Rocky's production of "Almost, Maine." Roe was also able to coax the playwright, Tony Award-winner John Ciani, to Billings last fall to work with his students on "Love/Sick." Roe also directed several plays at Billings Studio Theatre and spent three seasons directing the Virginia City Players. His replacement at Rocky is former student Jayme Green, who credits Roe with inspiring him to pursue theatre. "Something clicked toward the end of my sophomore year. Looking back, a large part of that was being around and seeing Gerry's passion," Green told the Gazette. "He loved what he did. Still does. He loves the process, loves the people, loves the creation, even loves the hiccups and more difficult times that come with every performance."

— Excerpted from the *Billings Gazette*, April 30

So long and best wishes to **William Marcus**, who retired in June from his post as director of the Broadcast Media Center at The University of Montana. The center oversees both Montana Public Radio and MontanaPBS. Marcus is a graduate of The University of Montana's School of Journalism, receiving his bachelor's in Radio-TV in 1974. He started his professional career in 1975 as a production assistant for KUFM radio, and has held a variety of positions with the station ever since. He was appointed director of the Broadcast Media Center in 1996. In addition to his radio work, he has served as executive producer for four regional Emmy Award-winning television documentaries and is host of the popular Montana PBS program "Backroads of Montana."



William Marcus

CONDOLENCES TO ...

To the family and friends of **Hugh Ambrose**. The 48-year-old author and historian died May 23 after a brief illness. Ambrose spent much of his distinguished career bringing to life the stories of the people and places of World War II. His 2010 book, *The Pacific*, debuted on *The New York Times* best-seller list at No. 7 and the book became a fixture on the *Times'* nonfiction list for much of that summer. The book was the basis for the highly acclaimed HBO miniseries of the same name on which Ambrose served as a consultant. Although not born in Montana, he got here as quickly as he could. Growing up in New Orleans the youngest of five children, he was introduced to Montana on regular family vacations to Big Sky Country, often in the overcrowded family Volkswagen bus, in search of a historical site or two to explore. After elementary school in New Orleans and high school in Ireland, Hugh made his way "home" to Montana at the age of 17 to study history at The University of Montana, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in history. Following his passion for the lives and stories of America's World War II veterans, Ambrose agreed to join the National World War II Museum in New Orleans as its vice president of development where he played a significant role in the expansion of what the U.S. Congress has officially declared as "America's National World War II Museum."

— From the *Independent Record*, May 28



Hugh Ambrose